I CLAIM:

1. A computer-implemented method for displaying information about a data block using a graphical user interface, comprising:

reading metadata stored within the data block;

displaying the metadata, wherein the metadata is editable;

computing validation information about the metadata; and

displaying validation information about the metadata.

2. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:

reading data stored in the data block; and

displaying the data on the graphical user interface.

3. The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the data is editable.

4. The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the data is displayed in a structured format, the structured format being derived from a structure definition associated with the data.

5. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the metadata within the data block contains a header portion and a tail portion.

6. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the data block is an Oracle data block.

7. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising editing the displayed metadata.

8. The computer-implemented method of claim 2, further comprising:

selecting data to be output; and

outputting the selected data to a data structure.

9. A system for displaying and validating information about a data block, comprising:

a graphical user interface comprising a first region for displaying metadata associated with the data block and a second region for displaying validation information, the validation information being based at least in part on the metadata associated with the data block; and

a validation module for reading the metadata and computing validation information about the metadata.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the metadata displayed in the first region is editable.

11. The system of claim 9, further comprising a third region for displaying data stored in the data block.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the data displayed in the third region is editable.

13. The system of claim 9, further comprising a script generation module, wherein the script generation module automatically generates a script that, when executed on the data file, parses the data file and extracts data contained within a data block within the data file.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the data block is a corrupted data block.

15. A computer program product that includes a medium useable by a processor, the medium having stored thereon a sequence of instructions which, when executed by said processor, causes said processor to execute a computer-implemented method for displaying information about a data block using a graphical user interface, comprising:

reading metadata stored within the data block;

displaying the metadata, wherein the metadata is editable;

computing validation information about the metadata; and

displaying validation information about the metadata.

16. The computer program product of claim 15, further comprising:

reading data stored in the data block; and

displaying the data on the graphical user interface.

17. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the data is editable.

18. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the data is displayed in a structured format, the structured format being derived from a structure definition associated with the data.

19. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the metadata within the data block contains a header portion and a tail portion.

20. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the data block is an Oracle data block.

21. The computer program product of claim 15, further comprising editing the displayed metadata.

22. The computer program product of claim 16, further comprising:

selecting data to be output; and

outputting the selected data to a data structure.